

It's in the blood 7/15/04

by Al Summers

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There are a number of sayings that refer to a person's heritage like "The apple never falls far from the tree," or "He/she comes by it naturally," or "It's in the blood," and "Like father, like son." These statements have never been more true than with a group of men who have strong roots in Gilmer County.

The "boys" get together two or three times a year, and when they do, beautiful music and singing fill the air. One such occasion is the annual Davis Fourth of July picnic and camp out, which I attended a couple of weekends ago.

It all began with Edgar Davis and his fiddle back in the early 1900s. He passed his love for music down to son Willie Davis, who passed it on to sons Vic, Larry, Bobby, and Donnie. Bobby's two sons, Keith and Kevin, have picked up the microphone and are beginning to make a name for themselves with their dad.



The Davis Trio, a three-man quartet-sounding group much in the genre of Leroy Abernathy and Shorty Bradford's two-man quartet, The Happy Two, are again making noise in the world of southern gospel music these days, no pun intended. Keith and Kevin get it honestly. Their harmonizing is something to be heard.

Bobby, who is in his 38th year of singing gospel music, sang baritone for seven years with The Lamplighters Quartet, travelling throughout South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama.

About four years ago, the sons joined their father to sing gospel music, and they are currently working on their fourth CD which will be released later this year. The CD contains a song penned especially for them, "It's Amazing to Me," that has been enthusiastically received by audiences. It also contains the Abernathy tune, "I Will Thank My Savior For It All."

They perform up to 60 concerts a year, from February to November, and can be seen on ETC-3's "Songs of Praise" this Saturday, July 17, at 8 p.m.

Most of you know Vic, Larry, and Donnie. Vic is a bass guitar player extraordinaire who can also play the steel guitar, dobro, and fiddle. As a matter of fact, he owns his grandfather Edgar's fiddle, the instrument that started it all. He has also played in bands that have backed Grand Ole Opry stars. He is an excellent musician.



Larry plays the old thumb-style picking guitar in the Chet Atkins style. Even Chet was impressed with Larry's picking when the two got together and "jammed."

Brother Donnie is a very talented guitarist and has a great voice, especially when it comes to singing what I call "classic country."

I guess they got it, their talent and their love for music, naturally.

Bobby says, "I never dreamed the boys would take up singing gospel music, but I am glad they did."

I do not know why he says that. You know, it is in their blood.

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The Davis Trio